

Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island

Executive Committee Minutes

October 10, 2008

Present: Steven Kitchin, Paul Ouellette, Paul Harden, Cynthia Farrell, Pat Talin, and Mike Cassidy. Staff and Guests: John O'Hare, Mavis McGetrick, Nick Ucci, and Gail DuPont

With a quorum present, Chair Steven Kitchin called the meeting to order at approximately 1:50 P.M. He asked the committee to review the minutes of the previous meeting on September 2, 2008.

VOTE: Pat Talin moved to accept the minutes as written. Paul Harden seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Steven Kitchin informed the committee that he has received two letters of resignation. The first letter dated September 8, 2008 was received from Joe Cannon. The second letter dated October 7, 2008 was from Christine Grieco.

VOTE: Pat Talin moved to accept the two resignations with regret. Paul Ouellette seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chair Steven Kitchin announced that Nick Ucci has accepted another position and submitted his resignation as Acting Executive Director of the Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island effective

October 11, 2008.

VOTE: Pat Talin moved to accept the resignation with regret. Michael Cassidy seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Steve stated that the Executive Committee has the authority to accept or reject candidates for the Executive Director position. Mr. O'Hare added the position has been posted inside and outside the Department of Labor and Training. Candidates will be interviewed for this position and recommendations will be made to this committee. In the interim, under the Eleven-Day Rule, John O'Hare offered a candidate to the committee.

The committee adjourned into Executive Session at approximately 2:10 P.M. and reconvened into open session at approximately 2:30 P.M.

VOTE: Pat Talin motioned to accept Christine Grieco under the Eleven-Day Rule as Acting Executive Director of Workforce Partnership of Greater Rhode Island. Michael Cassidy seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Nick stated that five positions for WPGRI staffing have been requested from the Department of Labor and Training with the hope that these position will be filled as soon as possible. Nick distributed

a copy of the final 2006 Audit to the Board. The draft audit for PY07 should be completed by the end of October. As requested at the last Board meeting, Nick presented an update on the Unified Plan which was approved in draft form in September by the workforce cabinet. John O'Hare said this is the first time the state has done a unified plan aimed at aligning all the state agencies in an effort to work together.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Board Development Committee: Paul Ouellette said board education will continue with a presentation by LMI at the next board meeting. Paul addressed the issue of numerous board vacancies and stated he has spoken to several potential board candidates.

Steve Kitchen requested potential candidates be identified by the end of November so they may be submitted to the governor for his approval. Kim Weiss has recently assumed the Veterans position responsibility which gives her a dual designation thus eliminating a position on the board which in turn will allow an elimination of a business position as well. Paul stated the Board Development Committee recommends the number of board members be reduced from 39 to 37.

VOTE: Paul Ouellette moved to recommend to the full Board the board membership be reduced from 39 to 37. Cynthia Farrell motioned to approve. Pat Talin seconded. The motion passed

unanimously.

Strategic Development Committee: Paul Harden referred to the material on customized training in the packets. This employer driven program will respond to the needs of the employer with training that directly responds to their needs while creating employment opportunities for the unemployed and under-employed. He reported the committee recommends customized training funding of 50 – 90% with an agreement that employers hire 100% at the end of the program. Discussion of the cost benefit ratio rating scale followed. Steve Kitchen suggested the rating system be redesigned before implementing the program.

VOTE: Pat Talin moved to recommend the board approve Customized Training with the provision that the rating system is redesigned. Cynthia Farrell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Paul Harden stated the committee also discussed and voted to postpone the On-The-Job (OJT) training program due to limited training sectors available and limited WPGRI staffing. The two ISDI sectors of WPGRI, construction and hospitality, will present before the Strategic Development Committee in October and November. Paul confirmed that there are now 151 Eligible Training Providers available but expressed concern regarding the performance of some of the programs. Nick said more monitoring needs to be conducted

to regulate quality.

Youth Council: Cynthia Farrell announced that with a collaborative effort, the revised RFP has been finalized and is ready for use in November. She stated that the November meeting of the Youth Council will be held at a One-Stop Center.

Quality Assurance: Michael Cassidy reported Workforce Solutions of Providence/Cranston will initiate monitoring of the One-Stop Centers and will report to the Quality Assurance Committee upon completion. ISDI representatives will be at the One-Stop Centers beginning next Tuesday. Nick reported the ITA and new WIA enrollments are on target but the Dislocated Workers are reaching only 90% of anticipated enrollments.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to come before the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steven Kitchen asked the committee to review the Board Agenda for October 14, 2008. No suggestions or changes were recommended.

VOTE: Pat Talin moved to adjourn. Paul Harden seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for

November 5, 2008.

**Respectfully submitted,
Gail DuPont
Administrative Assistant**